

## ICSSB-6512

### How to be a Good Educator and Innovative: Teaching Strategies

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As an educator in this era we have to be more active in doing teaching activities. Good educators have to know their students better, know their students' capacity, know what their students' need and be closer with their students. Good educators have to know how to use tech devices and seek for more information about teaching from outside sources.

This is a globalization era, children have known how to operate gadgets and have known how to access the internet and they even have their own gadgets. Using technology is a good way for educator to deliver their material in the class and to make learning become more interesting. This is your extra job, as a good educator is not just giving material through the tech devices but also guide students to use their gadgets appropriately.

Nowadays students are not like the old days. They are more active, curious, and critical. They want to know more and need extra attention from their teachers. Therefore, we as educators have to teach and guide wisely in order to give every information and aspect of learning to our students.

So, how to be a good educator and Innovative Teaching Strategies? According to my opinion, there are several ways in how to be a good educator and Innovative Teaching Strategies.

#### 1. Reflective

As an educator, it is important to reflect on what is working and what is not. Remember, we are the reflection of our knowledge, attitude, and also the role model for our students! We must constantly examine our processes and our concept to make sure what is best for students we teach. This is your responsibility to reflect the goods for your students.

Students receive every information, message, and learn from their educator. They even imitate their educators' attitude. So it is important to keep your attitude in front of your students. If you can't respect your students, they will do the same thing to you. Do not bring your struggle, problem, and bad emotion into the class. You might work on your attitude -- you could think more positively. Your attitude would be so positive, you'd be happy wherever you were. So your students will get the positive energy from you. Your attitude determines your altitude. (Taken

from: Covey, Steven. R (1989). The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People)

Before we teach our students we have to filter all of the information that we want to deliver. Remember that educator is in order to make better generation for future.

## **2. Learners**

We are educators and also learners. An innovative educator is always learning, reading and listening. An innovative educator always needs more knowledge, information and advice from other sources in order to improve their teaching skill. An innovative educator never felt enough and never felt perfect. They take responsibility and initiative for their learning.

Do not feel that you are the best, and you are the smartest than any other educators. Just because you're an educator now, does not mean you don't need to learn anymore. You have to learn about the situation around you, learn about your students' behavior, and learn about what is new in education field.

You might not know yet the newest information about teaching. Having no idea about the new issue in education field is not comfortable. So that you need more data, information, to support your ideas in order to give material of learning in class and also about your perform in teaching. Nobody is perfect, so do not think that you already have everything in your hand. Year is changing, so do the aspect of learning and also your students.

There is no real excellence in all this world which can be separated from right living -- *David Starr Jordan*

## **3. Creative**

Like I have said before, time is changing, today is not like the old days. This is why we have to learn and learn again. Even we are the educators. Because we need something new in order to create new method in teaching. We have to be more creative so that our students will not get bored or sleepy in class. Finding out one of our student is sleepy is very irritating and can change our mood to teach. This situation also can disturb another students' focus in studying.

Formerly, students had to make notes, wrote all the materials in their writing books. Teacher was speaking in front of the class and students wrote it down in their books. It is boring. As a good educator in this era, we have to change up a lesson to make it more interesting, more engaging or increase students' motivation.

A teacher must never give up on a student. They should continuously try new strategies understanding that eventually something will work.

Writing is good for us to advance our memory, but do not make students writing and writing in

whole school-time. They need something fresh, something new in studying. Make a class discussion, game, presentation, outdoor class, and research paper. It can be one of several ways to refresh old school style. It also can be more challenging and motivating for students. By this way students are expected to feel free in expressing and sharing their idea in front of the class. The educators keep an eye to what their students do and share for the class. Remember that this is still our responsibility.

#### **4. Connected**

You have to connect with your students. How can you know your students' need and what will be the best approach to use with them if we are not connected with our students personally? Innovative educators close the gap between the traditional teachers, so we can determine what is best for each student.

Make friendship with your students. Treat your students as if they are your friends, by this way you will get closer with them and know them personally. Educators do not only educate inside the class but you can also educate your students outside the class. Educators do not only educate about subjects such as Math, English, History, etc in the class, but educators also educate about moral values to their students.

Be a caring educator. Never let your students down when they come to you with their problems. Even if the problems are out of syllabus, try to help the student by using the Internet or library. It would gain both of you some knowledge.

You can share information with your students. Do not feel shy to ask them just because they are your students. Remember that educators are also learners, we still need information, and information are coming from every sources include your students.

Exchange ideas with your students can help you to make new atmosphere in teaching. You will know what your students' need. You can also motivate and inspire your students deeply.

Be kind to your students. Kindness should be innate in all teachers. A mean spirit will turn students off, but a kind spirit is invaluable. (Taken from: <http://teaching.about.com/od/Information-For-Teachers/a/Twenty-five-Essential-Qualities-Of-A-Good-Teacher.htm>)

#### **5. Collaborative**

Work together with other educators to solve problems and share successes. Good educator is always exploring every topic with their colleague in the same field. Remember that you are not the best educator, not the perfect one. You still need other people to discuss about your students' performance, about your teaching methods and your knowledge. They know that none is as smart as all of us.

Good educators must have the ability to work effectively with administrators, other teacher, and parents for the good of your students. A teacher must be able to build cooperative relationships

with others around them even if they do not necessarily like them.

## **6. Inquisitive**

Innovative educators are always asking questions. Ask about how to improve, ask about did they do wrong or not, ask about how to adapt with students, and ask about how to give the best approach. After all, it is not about having all the answer but it is about asking the right questions.

Innovative educators always want to improve their teaching skill, improve their attitude, improve their knowledge, and improve their relationship with their students.

Not only the basic things but also they want to know more about teaching. Always ask about how to maintain peace in class, how to set some ground rules, how to make well-defined consequences for students who breaks the rules, how to maintain a creative environment, and how to deliver material appropriately.

They always ask because they want to give the best for their students. They know that educators must give what their student's need from learning in his/her class. Good educators realize that they have a big responsibility to enlighten the future generation, so that they do not want take a wrong step in teaching their students.

## **7. Principled**

Innovative educators live life according to strong values. They want to make a difference. They believe that being an educator is a great way to make their mark in the world and they don't take it for granted. They believe in being a role model to the students they serve and look for opportunities to show they care by their actions not just with words. They also care enough to make tough decisions even when it's not popular and accepted. They stand up for their beliefs. Good educators believe in honor and morals and really try to do the best job they can at whatever they are working on.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

-- *Aristotle*

And in my opinion here are some innovative teaching strategies:

### **1. Have an objective.**

When you are planning a lesson, the most vital part is the objective. What do you want your students to take away from the lesson? If the objective is powerful, deep, and reflects what you really want students to learn, it will be reflected in the lesson.

## **2. Have a solid plan for your lessons.**

Each and every lesson should be divided into three simple parts that reflect your objective.

- First should be the "lecture" part of the lesson. This is where you teach something new to the class (of course allowing for questions or comments when applicable).
- Dedicate the second part of class to something that involves a collective group work element where students can work with whoever they want. Near the end of this part, you can have a discussion session where groups voice their findings/opinions, and give marks for adequate participation.
- The final part of every lesson should be where the students return to their seats and work QUIETLY on one final task, such as answering specific questions written on the board, or drawing a picture related to something they learned that lesson. The students should only talk to you (if they have a question about what/how to do it) or the person sitting directly next to them. This is the wind-down part where students get a chance to work on and understand the material on their own.

## **3. Make interactive quiz**

After you deliver your material and explain it to your students give an interactive quiz for them. Make five until ten questions for students to answer. The questions contain the material that you just explained, instead of writing this can also advance students' memory of the subject you have given.

Students will be motivated to answer the questions and this is good for students to memorize all the material. This also will make students become more active in class. You may want to have a quiz every Friday to assess how well the students are grasping the material. You can judge how well you are teaching by how well the majority of your students perform on the quizzes.

## **4. Make class discussion**

Pick one topic, a hot issue, for students to open up a class discussion. By this way students are thinking, talking and sharing information and thoughts in the classroom. Each students have their own thought, perception, and reaction about the topic being discussed. Let them express and share their opinion one by one and hopefully can solve the problem or make a new idea from the topic.

Discussion can help students to speak up what is in their mind, new ideas that they have. They exchange ideas and opinion to their friends. This also can help students to speak in front of the class instead of speaking in public.

## **5. Use technology in class**

Every gadget such as computers, tablets, laptop and many other tech devices can enhance a

students' learning experience. Possible uses for classroom include using video to teach math or foreign languages, or multimedia projects that allow students to explore subject matter using audio, film, and any other software. You can deliver your material subject through the tech devices and can make it more interesting.

But as a good educator, you have to control and guide them in accessing internet. Manage classroom in using technology wisely. Giving students laptops or tablets means teaching them to use devices respectfully and preventing damage to the equipment.

You have to explain the use of tech devices Explain that the use of tech tools in class is a privilege not everyone has — and if abused, it can be discontinued. During class, teachers should move around the classroom or use monitoring software to ensure students are using their devices appropriately. When they understand that their teacher will intervene if they go off-task, students know they must focus on their assignment. (Taken From: <http://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/educator-tips/3-innovative-methods-of-teaching-for-high-school-educators/>)

## **6. Make presentation**

Break students into small groups to do research online, make a research paper, chart idea and discuss ways to meet challenge. Groups present their presentation in front of the class, where teacher can review it.

This way also help students how to work in group. It help students to discuss their ideas, how to build teamwork, maintain their ego for one purpose. Presentation can be included with class discussion, where other students can have questions to the group who deliver the presentation. Not only questions, other students can also express their argument and opinion.

Educators keep an eye to the presentation and discussion. Keep guide your students in presentation and also give more explanation through the topic if it is not clear enough. Educators have known the topic first than the students, so if students ask for more explanation, you can explain to them clearly.

## **7. Make game**

Game can make learning become more interesting. Break students into group and give questions, puzzle, or chants. Class can be more interactive and funnier.

## **8. Homework**

Assign relevant homework. Rather than assigning something different every night, it is wise to

assign one or two more substantial assignments on Monday and then collect these assignments on Friday.

### **9. Outdoor class**

Outdoor education, training and recreation promote active learning through direct personal experience and offer excitement, fun and adventure within a framework of safety. Active learning and adventure outdoors can take place in a variety of environments: rural and urban, local and more remote. Outdoor education, training and recreation involve both young people and adults in a wide range of experiences, including adventurous activities on land and water and activities with an environmental focus. Methods used include skills-focused learning, problem solving, team building and self-reliant journeys and activities, with residential experience an especially valued feature.

Challenging experience outdoors impacts powerfully upon a young person's intellectual, physical, spiritual, social and moral development. Use of the outdoors makes a major contribution to physical and environmental education and enhances many other curriculum areas. It contributes to personal growth and social awareness and develops skills for life and the world of work. Qualities such as a sense of responsibility and a purpose in life are nurtured. There is also a great deal of intrinsic enjoyment and satisfaction to be experienced from participation in outdoor activities.

### **10. Give oral test**

Orally ask about basics before teaching a topic in-depth. Clear the base points which seem to be unknown to your students.

### **11. Practical Application**

Understand that every topic in the book has some practical application. Don't forget to discuss that part as it is the most important one.

### **12. Give reward**

Give students a reward for accomplishing tasks. Choose something simple like give them an additional score or give them something more interesting like ice cream or chocolate as reinforcement for a job well done. (Taken From: Templeton, Melody (2009). Public Speaking and Presentations Demystified.)

### **TIPS**

- It bears mentioning again that, making your lesson plans, the most important element is the objective. The other parts of the lesson (part for "lecture teaching", part for students working, and part for quiet working) spring from or arise from that objective.

- Effective classroom management is among the most important skills to have as a teacher.
- Add a little love to every activity you teach. You will get better results from your students.
- It is important to use questioning techniques throughout to check that the learner has understood. If the learner finds it too easy to answer then probe them further to gain a more detailed response. Using the terms 'why' and 'how'. This will stretch learners further.
- Your evaluation (i.e. tests and quizzes) should be formed based on the original objective. It should evaluate how well the students met the objectives you set out when planning your lessons.
- You should be at least 1-2 weeks ahead in terms of your lesson plans.
- Make sure all of your students understand what you are teaching. If you ask your class, they may say yes but you may not hear the little voice that says no.
- Ask more questions from those who disrupt the class a lot. Let them know that the only way for you to stop your questions is to stop their disruption.
- It is never too late to start to implement these tips and ideas.
- It is important to have some distance from your students, particularly for the first 2 weeks of the term. If you cannot keep a professional distance from your students, it is because YOU have the need to relate to them on a more personal level, probably because you're lacking that somewhere in your more personal life. It is *your* responsibility to recognize this and deal with it.

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